

# Parent Update

A Newsletter for Families of Those Residing at the  
Southwestern Virginia Training Center

## Christmas Parties Galore!!!

Everyone has had so much fun this year during the Christmas season!! We have had so many generous people come to SWVTC and bring presents, cake, punch, and lots of other holiday goodies. They came to spread the holiday cheer and I know they succeeded because our folks had the most wonderful Christmas!! One of our amazing sponsors from Richmond started gathering Christmas presents in June and was able to gather enough to sponsor 54 people. Morgan Shepherd generously donated gift bags for everyone filled with NASCAR memorabilia, hats, gloves, shirts, model cars and much more. The halls of SWVTC have been filled with music and laughter from community partners and church groups who just want to see our people smile at Christmas. We are appreciative to all of the sponsors for all of their efforts to ensure that everyone had a great holiday. THANK YOU THANK YOU !!!!!



Left: Tyler helps to distribute over 3,000 Christmas cards sent from church members of First Christian Church of Galax.



Above: Jessica celebrates Christmas with Dalton from Mt Olivet Church.



Left: Alice Summers and the Ladies of Gladeville UMC brought snacks and warm fleece blankets with each persons name monogrammed on it.

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### Special points of interest:

- \* Christmas Christmas Everywhere
- \* PARTIES!!! PARTIES!!! PARTIES!!!
- \* Santa Clause Brings Holiday Cheer to SWVTC
- \* Everyone loves a holiday dance!!

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# Christmas is Everywhere!!



Above and Left: First Christian Church of Dublin came out with lots of presents, snacks, and holiday cheer to help the guys of 8C get into the Christmas Spirit!!!

Above: Poplar Camp Church of God Children's Ministries came out during Sunday School to sing Christmas carols and bring everyone a special present.



Left and Below: Shorts Creek Church of God Ladies Ministries came out with banjos, guitars, and a dobra to play Christmas songs. They read a short Christmas story then filled their tummies with homemade apple pies and cupcakes. They also let everyone open one gift before Christmas. Wesley got a glow in the dark basketball and Scottie got a musical dog.



Above: Sarah Beth on 12B loves the new sunglasses given to her by one of the ladies from the Fairlawn Church of Christ.







Rev. Russell Payne and the Coulson Church of the Brethren Women came out to visit 3 B. They brought lots of snacks, presents, singing, and guitar picking. Eddie B. had a great time as you can see!!!!



Above: Ronnie B. had fun opening his stocking brought to him by the Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints.



Left: Timmy can't wait to open his presents Christmas morning that Woodlawn Pentecostal Holiness Church gave him!!

Right: Beulah visits with Brenda Lindsey a member of the Hillsville Women's Club which bought snacks and presents for 6C.



On Dec. 12th the folks of 6D and 8A visited VFW Post 1115 in Hillsville for their annual Christmas celebration. They were served a wonderful meal consisting of ham, turkey, dressing, green beans, mashed potatoes, and delicious homemade desserts. They were the VIPs of the night and given lots of presents to take back and put under their tree for Christmas.



Check out  
all of the  
Holiday Fun!



Left: These are staff that attended the Christmas banquet with 8A and 6D.





Above: Roger is showing off his new sweatshirt brought to him by some folks from Joy Ranch.



Above and Left: The Tweeners of Hillsville FUMC had a great time with the guys of 8B .

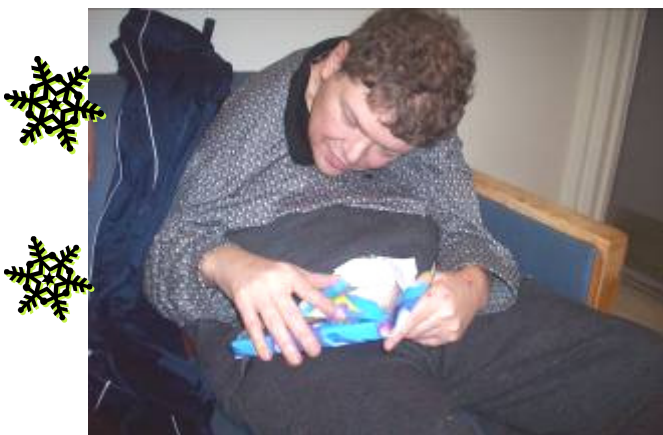


Right: Building 3 decorated beautifully for Christmas!!!



Above: Crooked Oak Baptist Church sponsored presents, food and fun for 3 B, C, & D.

Below and Right: Jeff and Mark really enjoyed the presents given to them by Jeff and Sharon Johnson.





# Santa Clause comes To SWVTC

One of the highlights of the Christmas Season at SWVTC is the day Santa Clause comes to officially kick-off the Christmas season. When Santa arrives here our folks know that he brings lots of days filled with fun, food and holiday cheer. Santa has arrived many different ways from helicopters to horse and buggy to fake chimneys. This year Santa decided to ride in on a Harley Davidson Motorcycle. The Lions Club District 24-F was there to sing Christmas carols while Santa went around and shook every persons hand and talked with them about what they would like for Christmas. When Santa was finished the Lions announced they were donating 100lbs of popcorn, continuing to pay for selected satellite stations, and \$150 for every RLU. Dr. Woods announced to date they have donated over \$350,000 in the last 30 years.



Above: The Lions Club sings Christmas Carols.

Below: Patricia and Mary on 12B got dressed up to come out and see Santa Clause.

Above: Kenny and Wilbur are very excited to see Santa and tell him what they want for Christmas.

Below: Bernard Mabe rode Santa in on his Harley.





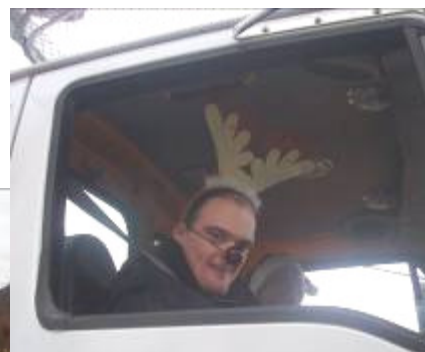


Kazim Hillbillies



Queen Mary & King James

# Christmas Parade 2008



Santa Clause



Look it's Santa's elves!!!



Sharon and Darla decorated the golf cart for Christmas!!





# Everybody Let's Dance!!



Everyone had a great time at this year's Christmas dance. The evening was filled with the sounds of the season by the "Night Shift" band. Food Service made some scrumptious desserts to snack on in between dances. The tree was beautifully lit which helped to set the holiday festivities into motion. As you can see from all of the bright bubbly smiles below everyone loves the holiday dance.



Santa was there moovin and a groovin to the music.



Andy and Bobby were wheelin' all over the dance floor.



April gave a beautiful smile for the camera!!!



Kevin in his Santa hat.



Look at that tree. It has almost 3000 lights!!!



Look how scrumptious those cakes look!!! Great Job Food Service!!



And there is Beulah looking **beautiful** as always!!



Theresa and Raymond are really two-stepping!!!



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**LIFE at SWVTC**

**VISION:** Living  
Independently and  
Functionally Everyday

**MISSION:** Support Work  
Value Teach Communicate

**HELP FOR PARENTS AND ASSOCIATES ADVOCATE  
COUNCIL (PAAC)**

**OUR GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP! IS ANYONE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF THE SWVTC PAAC? THE DUTIES INCLUDE CHAIRING PAAC MEETINGS AND OCCASIONALLY REPRESENTING PAAC AT MEETINGS OR WRITING LETTERS ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP. THE PERSON WHO SERVES IN THIS POSITION WILL HAVE ASSISTANCE FROM THE FACILITY WHENEVER NEEDED. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SOCIAL WORKER IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

**A Note From Abby**



Happy New Year Everyone!!!! As you can see from all of the pictures the holiday season was absolutely beyond all expectations. I was so amazed by the amount of gifts that were brought in here by people in this community. I am 150% convinced now that the people of Southwestern Virginia love our folks living here at the training center. I saw people who were going to be laid off from their jobs in February still bring in a truck load of presents and snacks ready to have a party. Those people probably aren't sure how they will feed their families in a month, but they were not going to let that stop them from making sure our folks had a very special Christmas!! I am just so thankful that I was able to be here this year to take part in all of the fun and laughter. To see others giving so much really helped to remind me what Christmas was all about!!!